

**OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECURITIES AND CHARITIES DIVISION**

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**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**MY SOUTH, INC.**

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**File Number C-09-0237**

**CONSENT ORDER**

I.

The Securities and Charities Division of the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office ("Division"), having the authority to administer and to provide for the enforcement of all provisions of the Mississippi Charitable Solicitations Act ("Act"), and Respondent do hereby enter into this Consent Order in resolution of the following allegations by the Division of violations of certain provisions of the Act:

1. My South, Inc. ("My South") is a Mississippi non-profit organization with the stated purpose to "raise funds to underwrite the event (My South: A Celebration of Southern Art, Music, Literature and Food) and make contributions to a designated number of Mississippi charities in the form of one-time donations".
2. My South was registered with the Division through March 14, 2008, at which time its registration expired. My South failed to renew its registration and indicated that it had no desire to renew its registration and to continue soliciting funds in the State of Mississippi.
3. The Division performed an examination on My South and it was determined that My South failed to maintain accurate books and records of its solicitation activities in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §79-11-518.
4. The Division also determined that My South failed to use all of the contributions it received for its stated charitable purpose in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §79-11-509(1)(d).

5. With the contributions raised for the event, My South purchased several items to be used during the event. Most of these items are currently stored in a facility and are not being used.
6. My South's officers, board of directors, and employees failed their fiduciary responsibilities to the organization when they failed to abide by all of the charity rules and regulations.

## II.

Respondent, under the terms of this Consent Order and solely for the purpose of resolving the foregoing allegations, stipulates without a hearing to the matters set forth above in Paragraph I and hereby consents to the issuance of this Consent Order and further consents to and agrees to the undertakings contained herein, with no formal administrative hearing and determination of wrongdoing.

## III.

THEREFORE, in consideration of a final resolution of the matters set forth herein, the Division and Respondent hereby agree and stipulate as follows:

1. Respondent stipulates to the jurisdiction of the Division as to all matters contained herein under the authority of the Act and acknowledges that the issuance of this Consent Order is solely for the purpose of resolving the matters contained in this Consent Order.
2. The Division has received a check from Rebecca Pierce to reimburse My South for items Ms. Pierce purchased from Best Buy and paid with My South's contributions. My South agrees to deposit this check into its account and distributed the money to a charity according to its charitable purpose.
3. My South agrees to sell to Ms. Leisha Pickering and Ms. Pickering agrees to purchase the following item from My South currently being held in a storage facility:

- \* sideboard (bar) with hutch (\$6420)

Ms. Pickering has been making monthly payments to Storagemax in Gluckstadt, Mississippi for the items stored. Originally, it took three (3) storage units to hold the items. The items have now been consolidated into two (2) bigger storage units. According to documentation submitted, since the event in 2007, Ms. Pickering has paid Five Thousand, Four Hundred and One Dollar and Fifteen Cents (\$5401.15) out of her personal account to the storage facility.

Ms. Pickering has requested that the Division take this cost into account when determining the final cost that she has to pay to My South for the about item.

Taking into consideration the storage fees paid by Ms. Pickering, she must pay My South One Thousand, Eighteen Dollars and Eighty-Five Cents (\$1018.85) for the item she will buy.

4. My South must donate eighty-one (81) easels that are currently being stored to a local university/college or school art program. My South has indicated in previous documentation that thirty (30) of these easels will be donated to Jackson Academy Center for Arts and twenty (20) of these easels will be donated to Belhaven University. Please supply the Division with information as to where the other thirty-one (31) easels will be donated.

5. My South agrees to donate the following items to a charity in accordance with its charitable purpose:

- a. 2 round pillars
- b. 4 extra large square pillars
- c. 2 large square pillars
- d. 2 medium sized square pillars

- e. 2 small square pillars
- f. 2 wheel barrows
- g. 1 green small wheel barrow
- h. 2 small wagons
- i. 1 large glass
- j. 1 small cheese table
- k. 3 cheese trays
- l. 2 baskets
- m. 2 wine racks
- n. 1 pig
- o. 1 aluminum canister
- p. 1 scale
- q. 1 small bar (black)
- r. 2 small side tables (black)
- s. sideboard (bar) with hutch
- t. 2 square iron bar tables
- u. 1 wooden bucket
- v. 1 large copper kettle
- w. 2 flat wicker trays

- x. 1 perrot
- y. 6 dough bowls
- z. 2 trays w/3 tier white wash
- aa. 1 slab platter
- bb. Victorian pastry server
- cc. 2 troughs
- dd. counter bar zinc
- ee. 1 table
- ff. wagon wheel table
- gg. large hosta leaf-verdi
- hh. copper pot (small)
- ii. 2 sugar boilers
- jj. Items from Julie Welding:
  - i. large serving man
  - ii. pastry chef
  - iii. 2 small standing men with trays
  - iv. 2 My South book ends
  - v. candleholder
  - vi. 4 small jazz singers



vii. 3 large musicians

viii. 1 small child

6. Once My South has received the above monetary contributions from Ms. Pierce and Ms. Pickering and have made the distribution of the above assets, My South will send to the Division documentation (including name and address of organization receiving donations and assets) confirming the transactions and distributions (including date) by January 22, 2010.

7. This Consent Order is in resolution of the matters contained herein. As a result of this Consent Order, the matters contained herein cannot be used as a basis for action by the Division except in determining any penalty as may be imposed by the Division for any future violations of the Act committed by the Respondent and as set forth below.

8. Respondent agrees that it will comply with the provisions of the Mississippi Charitable Solicitations Act as currently in effect or as may be subsequently amended.

#### IV.

In the event Respondent fails or neglects to comply with any of the terms, stipulations or undertakings set forth in this Consent Order, the Division may, without notice to the Respondent, unilaterally rescind this Order and institute any legal or administrative proceedings it deems appropriate including, but not limited to, proceedings to address the matters set forth herein.

DELBERT HOSEMAN  
Secretary of State

By:



TANYA G. WEBBER  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Securities and Charities Division

Date: 1/20/2010

The undersigned agent for My South, acknowledges that she has been lawfully vested with the authority to enter into this Consent Order on behalf of the Respondent.

MY SOUTH, INC.

By: Leisha Pickering  
Sign Name  
Leisha Pickering  
Print Name

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Title

Date: 1/21/2010